

[illegible]

MAR.

№27

FORBIDDEN WORLDS

10¢

H-HELP! DON'T LEAVE
ME...TO THIS HORROR...

9¢
STARTED SIMPLY
ENOUGH...A LOST
EXPLORER...A RESCUE
EXPEDITION WHICH RAN
HEADLONG INTO A STRANGE
NATIVE TABOO! AND FROM THENCE
ON, AN INCREDIBLE ADVENTURE
INTO A WEIRD WORLD...IN

"THE THING
with the GOLDEN
HAIR!"



Come on, Buddy, Quit being A BAG-of-BONES Weakling like I was

IN 10 MINUTES OF FUN A DAY

YOU Can do ALL I did!

I gained 25 Terrific LBS. of HANDSOME POWER-PACKED MUSCLES all over!

I improved my HE-MAN LOOKS 1000%

I won NEW STRENGTH for money-making work! for WINNING at all SPORTS!

I won NEW POPULARITY Won NEW FRIENDS, BOYS & GIRLS NEW CHANCES for BUSINESS SUCCESS

Hi Pal! Win \$100 as I just did!



"I'm PROUD to be seen with Jim NOW! Every-body admires his build," says Nellie. "Jim can lift the front of a 2700 lb. car. He amazes his friends!"



You'll be A Real ATHLETE in ALL SPORTS Soon after YOU mail Coupon.

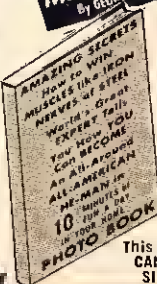
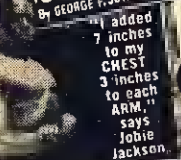
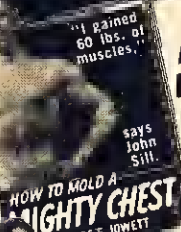
Jim is a WINNER in ALL SPORTS NOW. YOU will be, too, soon.

How did I do ALL This? I mailed the Coupon and got These 5 PICTURE-PACKED HE-MAN COURSES

Which YOU can NOW get FREE

BEFORE \$1 PRICE GOES BACK Millions Sold for \$1

GET ALL 5 FREE



YOU CAN WIN a BIG 15" SILVER CUP as I just did! with YOUR NAME engraved on it!



JIM NORMAN

AFTER

He Mailed Coupon Below is Cleveland

BEFORE

He Mailed Coupon

90 lb. Skeleton

He says,

I gained

70 lbs.

of

mighty

muscle

COME ON, PAL, NOW YOU give me 10 PLEASANT MINUTES A DAY IN YOUR OWN HOME like Jim did and I'll give YOU a NEW HE-MAN BODY for your OLD SKELETON FRAME

"Congratulations, John! At last you mailed the coupon as EVERY MAN should. Soon YOU'll be as big and strong as I am," says Jim Norman to John Luckus

NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are I'll make you DVER by the SAME method I turned myself from a wreck to the strongest of the strong. Why can't I do for you what I did for MANY THOUSANDS of skinny fellows like You?

Develop YOUR 520 MUSCLES Gain Pounds, INCHES FAST!

YES! You'll see INCHES of MIGHTY MUSCLE added to your ARMS and CHEST. Your BACK and SHOULDERS broadened. From head to heels you'll gain SIZE, POWER, SPEED. You'll be A WINNER in EVERYTHING you tackle.

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2. MUSCLE METER
3. Photo Book of STRONG MEN

Dept. AMA-43

Tell Me How To WIN \$100, etc.

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The THING WITH THE GOLDEN HAIR!



MANY ARE THE GHASTLY TRUTHS VEILED FOREVER FROM MORTAL EYES... MANY ARE THE MENACING MYSTERIES HIDDEN FROM US BEYOND THE DOOR OF THE UNKNOWN! BUT OF ALL MANKIND, ONLY PHILO KENDRICK AND JEFF GULLEN EVER SOLVED THE FEARSOME RIDDLE OF... **THE THING WITH THE GOLDEN HAIR!**

IN THE DEPTHS OF THE AFRICAN JUNGLE --

ANOTHER VILLAGE, GULLEN! WE MAY FIND WORD OF MAITLAND HERE!

MAITLAND! MAITLAND! I'M SICK OF THE NAME! IT'S FOUR MONTHS SINCE WE STARTED LOOKING FOR HIM! I TELL YOU, IT'S USELESS!



IT'S NOT COMPLETELY HOPELESS! THERE'S SOMETHING TO GUIDE US -- THIS COPY OF THE AERIAL SURVEY THE GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY MADE A YEAR AGO! THAT DISH-SHAPED AREA IN THE HEART OF THE MOUNTAINS IS WHAT STARTED THE WHOLE BUSINESS!

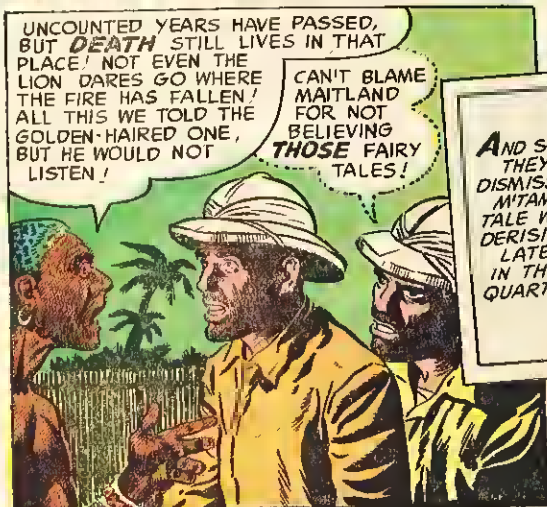


WHEN THE SOCIETY SPOTTED THAT CRATER, THEY REALIZED IT MIGHT BE THE SCAR OF A HUGE METEOR! MAITLAND WAS SENT TO INVESTIGATE!...

YEAH! I KNOW THE REST -- MAITLAND DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE! THAT'S WHY WE WERE HIRED TO FIND HIM! I KNOW THE STORY BY HEART!



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AND SO THEY DISMISSED M'TAMBU'S TALE WITH DERISION! LATER, IN THEIR QUARTERS--

BUT THE NEXT NIGHT, WHEN THEY TRIED TO SLIP AWAY, THEY WERE STOPPED BY NATIVE SPEARS!

NO! WE CANNOT LET YOU GO TO THE MOUNTAINS! THEY ARE **TABU!** YOU WOULD NEVER RETURN!

GET OUT OF OUR WAY, OLD MAN, OR I'LL---



COME ON, KENDRICK! WITH THEIR CHIEF SHOT, THEY'LL THINK TWICE ABOUT TRYING TO STOP US!



DO NOT--FOLLOW THEM, MY BROTHERS! VENGEANCE WAITS FOR THEM... IN THE MOUNTAINS... **ARGH!**

THE CHIEF IS DEAD!



THAT PLATEAU--THAT'S THE PLACE WHERE THE METEOR STRUCK! WE MAY FIND SOME SIGN OF MANTLAND THERE!

YEAH! BUT REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR AN OUTCROPPING OF GOLD ORE, OR DIAMOND-BEARING CLAY!



SUDDENLY--

WHA-WHAT HAPPENED? THE JUNGLE NOISES... THEY WERE CUT OFF... AS IF A **DOOR** CLOSED BEHIND US!

THERE'S--SOMETHING ABOUT THIS PLACE I DON'T LIKE!



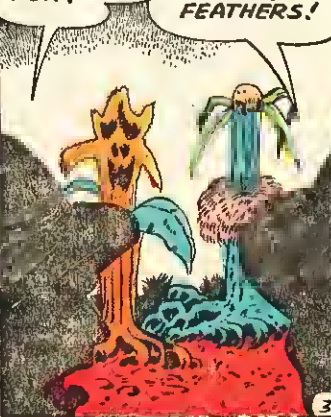
LOOK AT THAT **VEGETATION!** I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT! IT'S--**GHASTLY!**

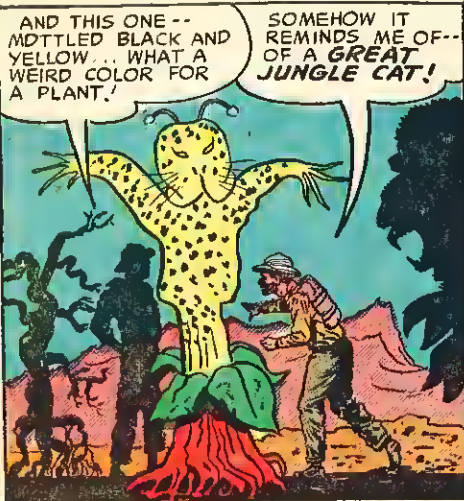
LOOK AT THOSE COLORS AND SHAPES! **BRRRR!** IT MAKES MY BLOOD RUN COLD!



LOOK AT THIS ONE! WHY, IT'S COVERED WITH **FUR!**

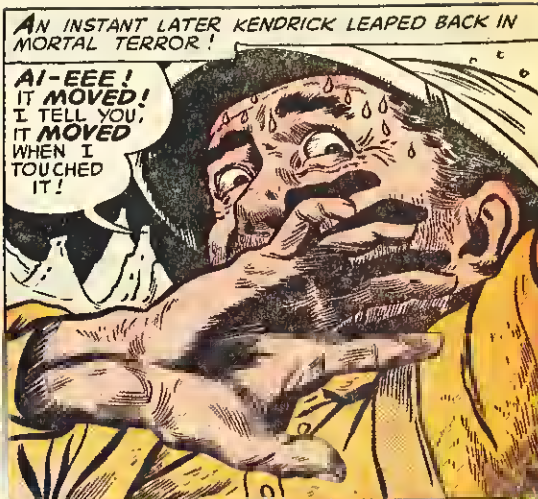
AND THIS--THIS **THING!** IT'S SHEATHED IN **PINK FEATHERS!**





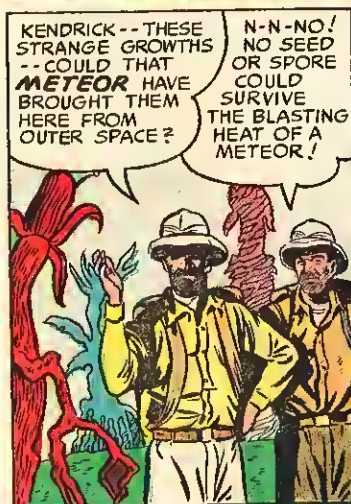
AND THIS ONE -- MOTTLED BLACK AND YELLOW... WHAT A WEIRD COLOR FOR A PLANT!

SOMEHOW IT REMINDS ME OF-- OF A GREAT JUNGLE CAT!



AN INSTANT LATER KENDRICK LEAPED BACK IN MORTAL TERROR!

AI-EEE! IT MOVED! I TELL YOU, IT MOVED WHEN I TOUCHED IT!



KENDRICK-- THESE STRANGE GROWTHS -- COULD THAT METEOR HAVE BROUGHT THEM HERE FROM OUTER SPACE?

N-N-NO! NO SEED OR SPORE COULD SURVIVE THE BLASTING HEAT OF A METEOR!



IN THE NEXT EERIE MOMENT, THEY WERE ABRUPTLY AWARE OF A STRANGE WARMTH SEEPING UP THROUGH THEIR BOOTS ---

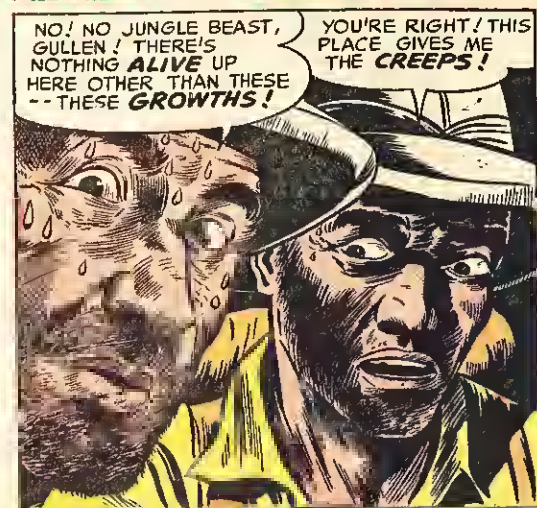
MAYBE THIS SOIL HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT! IT'S WARM! I CAN FEEL HEAT RIGHT UP THROUGH MY LEGS!

HM! IT'S POROUS-- SOMETHING LIKE VOLCANIC ASH! IT MIGHT BE DEBRIS FROM THE METEOR! BUT WHY SHOULD IT BE SO WARM?



JUST THEN -- LOOK! A HALF-ROTTED BLANKET ROLL!

THEN MAITLAND MUST HAVE DIED UP HERE! HE WAS PROBABLY KILLED BY SOME JUNGLE BEAST!



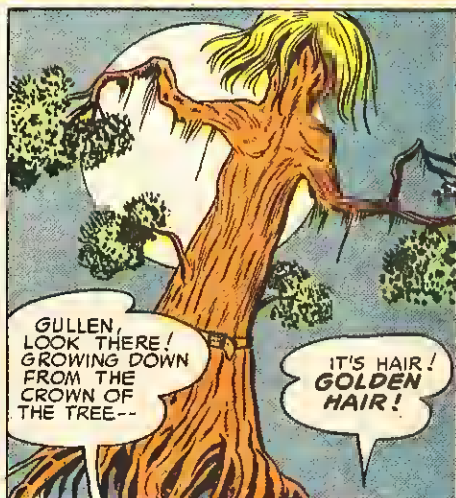
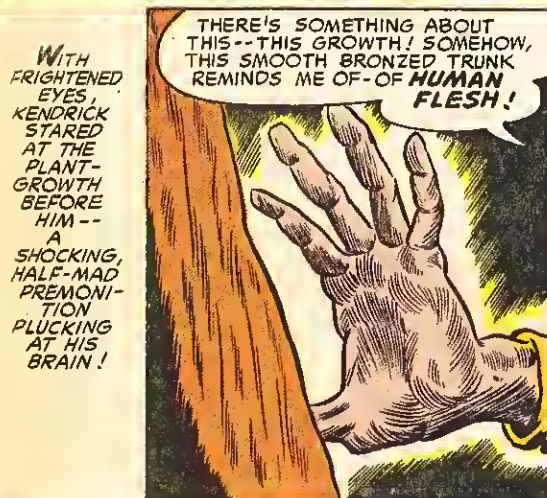
NO! NO JUNGLE BEAST, GULLEN! THERE'S NOTHING ALIVE UP HERE OTHER THAN THESE -- THESE GROWTHS!

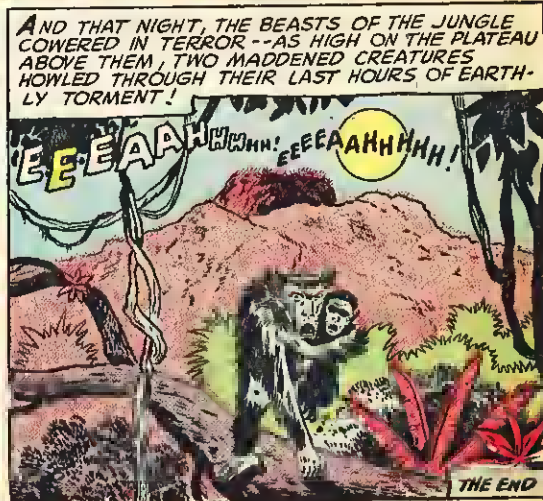
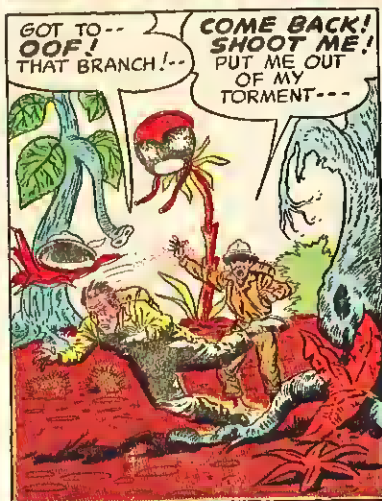
YOU'RE RIGHT! THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS!



COME ON, KENDRICK! LET'S KEEP MOVING! NOW THAT WE'RE SURE MAITLAND'S FINISHED, WE MIGHT AS WELL LOOK FOR GOLD OR DIAMONDS!

WAIT A MINUTE! I WANT TO TAKE MY BOOTS OFF! THE HEAT FROM THAT SOIL IS MAKING MY FEET MORE UNCOMFORTABLE EVERY MOMENT!





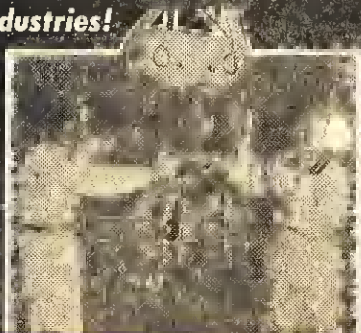
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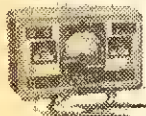
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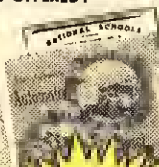
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I'll PROTECT YOU!

MARY TIMMONS was a Korean war widow...had been since the early days of hostilities when Jim had fallen, never to return. Theirs had been a great love, which lived on, for Mary, in the sunny blue eyes of little Bill, the son that Jim had left behind as a mere infant. He had also left the large family fortune to his wife and child...at least, they'd never know need! And so the lonely days passed and Billie grew older with only the love of a mother to protect him.

For Mary, there were tender memories which helped sustain her. Jim's strong, comforting arms...the adoration in his eyes as he gazed upon his wife and child. Of course, Billie had no memory of his father. He was five years old now, five years old when...it happened. Playing merrily on the sidewalk outside his home, he paid no heed when a car drew up to the curb and two men sidled out. They looked about them carefully, making sure that there was nobody to see them, then approached Billie hurriedly. "Let's go, kid," snarled one of them, grabbing the boy roughly by the arm. "Ynu're goin' for a ride...an' yet old lady's gonna hafta pay the fare back!"

Billie was too young to know that these were kidnappers...but their menace was plain. He drew back, screamed, then gasped with pain and terror as the man's hand landed vicinously on his face. "In ya go," gritted his assailant, flinging him towards the open car door. There was nobody to stop them from the familiar pattern of abduction and ransom, in which a mother's heart would be broken and her means exhausted...and who knows, whether she'd ever again see her child alive? But suddenly, from nowhere, appeared a khaki-clad figure

...a soldier whom the kidnappers could have sworn wasn't there a moment ago! "Don't worry, son," he cried. "I'll protect you!"

Unarmed, he leaped to the attack, driving back both men with sledgehammer blows. One of them pulled a gun, and six shots rang out in rapid succession. They were fired at point blank range, and you wouldn't think that they could have missed...but the battling soldier didn't seem to have felt a thing. There were people running up now, drawn by the sounds of conflict, and the thugs strove desperately to escape. But the soldier's superhuman strength was too much for them, and they were soon stretched unconscious near the getaway car. It was then that the police arrived and placed the criminals in custody...but strangely enough, Billie's protector seemed to have completely disappeared!

When the police reported these happenings to Mary Timmons, she was as much at a loss regarding the mystery-man's identity as they were. Sergeant Clancy was nettled. "What sort of guy was he, anyway!" he complained. "Risks his life for the kid and scrams before anybody can even thank him! All I got was a description...a tall, dark-haired guy with a cleft chin and a thin scar on his cheekbone that...hey, somebody catch that dame! She's fainting!"

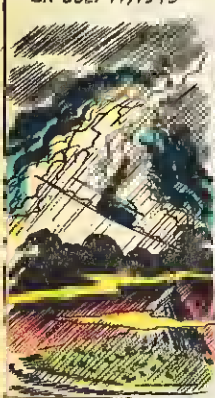
When they revived Mary, she couldn't speak. All she could do was stare fixedly at the photograph on the piano. It was of a soldier, tall and dark. His chin bore an attractive cleft, and the thin scar which crossed his cheekbone lent a note of determined strength to his countenance. PFC Jim Timmons... died in Korea April 23rd, 1951.

SOMEWHERE IN THE UNCHARTED BRAZILIAN JUNGLES, A TWISTED MASS OF STEEL AND ALUMINUM RUSTS BENEATH THE TROPICAL SUN -- GRIM REMAINS OF A FRIGHTFUL AIR DISASTER! NO ONE HAS VISITED THE SPOT FOR TEN YEARS, NOR IS LIKELY TO AGAIN -- FOR THE AREA IS NOW SPOKEN OF ONLY IN HUSHED WHISPERS AS --

DEATH'S DOMAIN



RADIO SIGNALS FROM THE AIRLINER AX-33 WERE LAST HEARD AT 11:46 P.M. ON JULY 17, 1943--



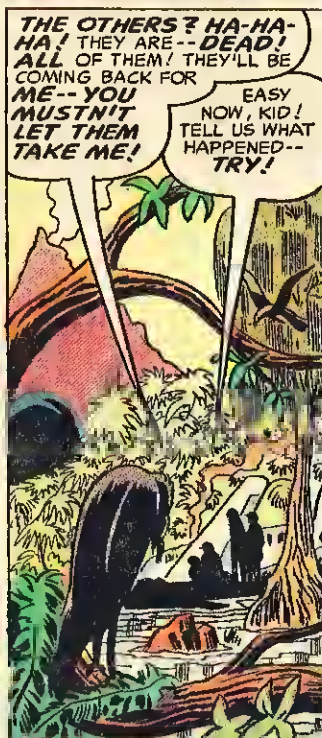
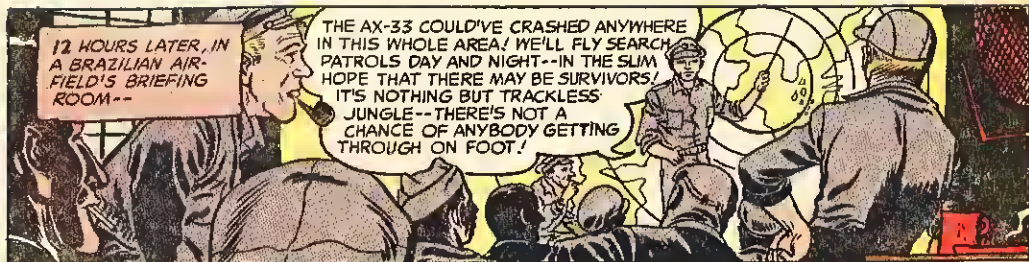
WITHIN THE STRICKEN PLANE --

NO HELP FOR IT, CHARLIE-- THE GAS TANK'S EMPTY, THE STORM'S BLOWN US MILES OFF OUR COURSE-- I'LL HAVE TO TRY TO SET THIS BABY DOWN IN THE JUNGLE! **HOLD ON!**



DESPERATELY, THROUGH THE BLACKNESS OF STORM AND NIGHT, THE PILOT SOUGHT A CLEARING! THEN, AS THE HUGE PLANE ROARED EARTHWARD--





IN FALTERING, BROKEN WORDS THE GIRL TOLD OF THE CRASH, AND THE AWFUL AFTERMATH--

I'M-- HURT! BUT THE OTHERS-- I'VE GOT TO HELP THEM--

SOMEONE-- HELP ME--

PLEASE -- OVER HERE--



"THERE WERE ONLY FOUR OF US ALIVE," THE GIRL CONTINUED, "AND AS WE HUDDLED TOGETHER--"

WE'VE GOT TO KEEP OUR HEADS TILL HELP COMES! THERE'LL BE SEARCHING PARTIES OUT BY TOMORROW, AND--

LISTEN! CAN'T YOU HEAR IT-- FOOTSTEPS IN THE JUNGLE! HELP IS COMING-- WE'RE SAVED!



"WE LISTENED AS THE SHUFFLING GREW LOUDER! THEN--"

LOOK-- OVER THERE! BUT THEY-- THEY'RE-- OH, NO!

IT--IT CAN'T BE! M-MAYBE WE'RE ALL MAD!



"BUT AS THE GHASTLY HORDE APPROACHED, THERE COULD BE NO DOUBT--"

WH-WHO ARE YOU? WHAT-- DO YOU WANT?

I COME TO CLAIM WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY MINE-- THE DEAD! ALL OF YOU ARE TRESPASSERS-- DOOMED TO BE MY EVERLASTING SLAVES! WHILE YOU LIVE I CANNOT TAKE YOU-- BUT HOW LONG DO YOU THINK YOU CAN SURVIVE-- HERE?



"THEN, RAISING HIS BONY ARMS IN A DREAD GESTURE--"

RISE, CORPSES-- AND JOIN THE HORDE OF MACCABO, YOUR ETERNAL MASTER!

GOOD HEAVENS! THEY'RE R-RISING!



I AM CONTENT--FOR NOW! BUT I SHALL RETURN--FOR THE REST OF YOU! NONE WHO ENTER THIS DOMAIN ESCAPE!

YOU WON'T GET US, YOU DEMON! WE'LL BE FOUND-- WE'LL BE FOUND!

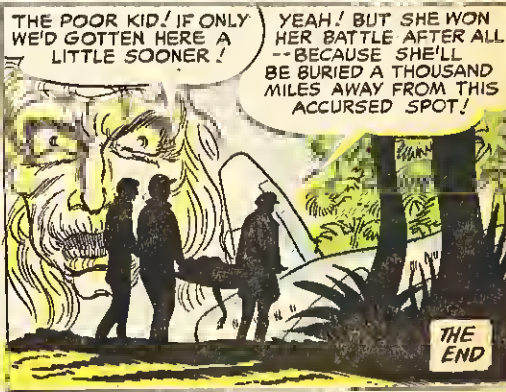
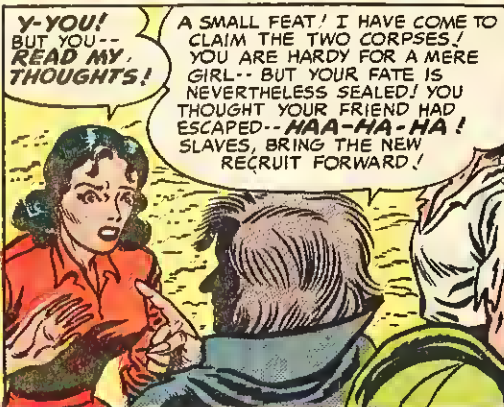
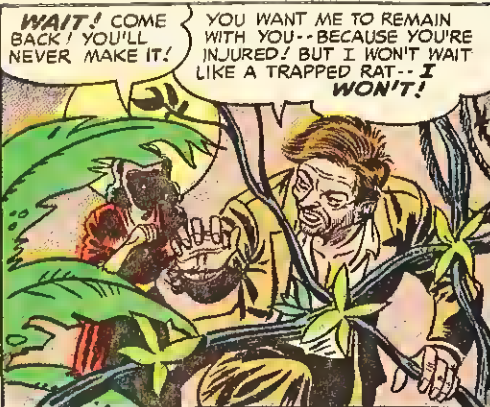


"THE TERROR-LADEN HOURS PASSED SLOWLY! TOWARDS DAWN, THE TWO SURVIVORS I HAD BEEN NURSING BREATHED THEIR LAST--"

WE'VE GOT TO BURY THEM-- BEFORE HE COMES!

DO YOU THINK GRAVES'LL STOP THAT MONSTER? WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE-- NOW! WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE!





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IT'S FUN AND RELAXING!
JUST FILL IN NUMBERED
PATCHES... LIKE THIS!

IT'S A CINCH!
EVEN WE KIDS
CAN DO IT!



From **YOUR EDITOR-**to **YOU!**

LINE UP FOR an experiment, all you fine fans of "Forbidden Worlds"! It has been stated that magazines like ours don't have the *scientific approach*, and what we'd like to do here is weigh our treatment of a set of facts as against the so-called "scientific"...and see which you, the reader, honestly prefer. Let's take the case of a person who's been found dead, reported in the following vein by a man of science. "Dr. Henry Brown, researcher, deceased in his laboratory, amid signs of sudden flash fire. Had probably been testing fireproof material he was developing, since hairlike strands found in hand had resisted flame. Contorted features doubtless marked onset of heart attack which brought his end."

That's one way of putting it...and it could be entirely true. But how much more fascinating *imagination* can be, when applied to the same facts! And since ours is a story medium, don't we owe it to our readers to give them all of the challenging richness of man's mind? Yes, we'd have made a story out of these circumstances...with such a plot as this: "Dr. Henry Brown was a man who derided the *supernatural*...and who was there to say that the

phantoms of the *Unknown* couldn't strike back? Yes, he was found dead...and those contorted features were the mark of the awful, out-of-the-world fright which had killed him. The fire? It was a strange one...for there was no *scientific* reason why it had started...no trace of where it had gone! Odd, wasn't it, that it should have left the odor of...*brimstone*? And if the blackened ashes on the floor were searched carefully enough, who is to say that the imprint of a *cloven hoof* might not be found? Finally, the "hairlike strands". Why not assume that they *were* hair, ripped from the head of the demon who had assaulted him? Yes, such hair *would* be flameproof...for what other type could survive the pits of Hades? And so...the *Unknown* had had its revenge!"

That's our treatment, fans...the *imaginative* approach. You'll see it throughout every story in this issue...and we hope you like it! Let us know what you think, please! Address your letters to The Editor, "Forbidden Worlds", 45 West 45th Street, New York 36, N. Y. If we have room, we'll publish them in future issues. Meanwhile...*we're waiting to hear from you!*

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (TITLE 39, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 233)

OF FORBIDDEN WORLDS, published Monthly at St. Louis, Mo., for October 1, 1953.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Titan Publishing Co., Inc., 420 DeSoto Avenue, St. Louis 7, Mo.; Editor, Richard E. Hughes, 120 West 183 St., New York, N.Y.; Managing editor, None; Business manager, Frederick N. Igar, 28 Sycamore Drive, Sands Point, N.Y.

2. The owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual member, must be given.) Titan Publishing Co., Inc., 420 DeSoto Ave., St. Louis 7, Mo.; Frederick N. Igar, 28 Sycamore Drive, Sands Point, N.Y.; Frances Songoi, 150 Central Park South, New York, N.Y.

3. The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bond, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

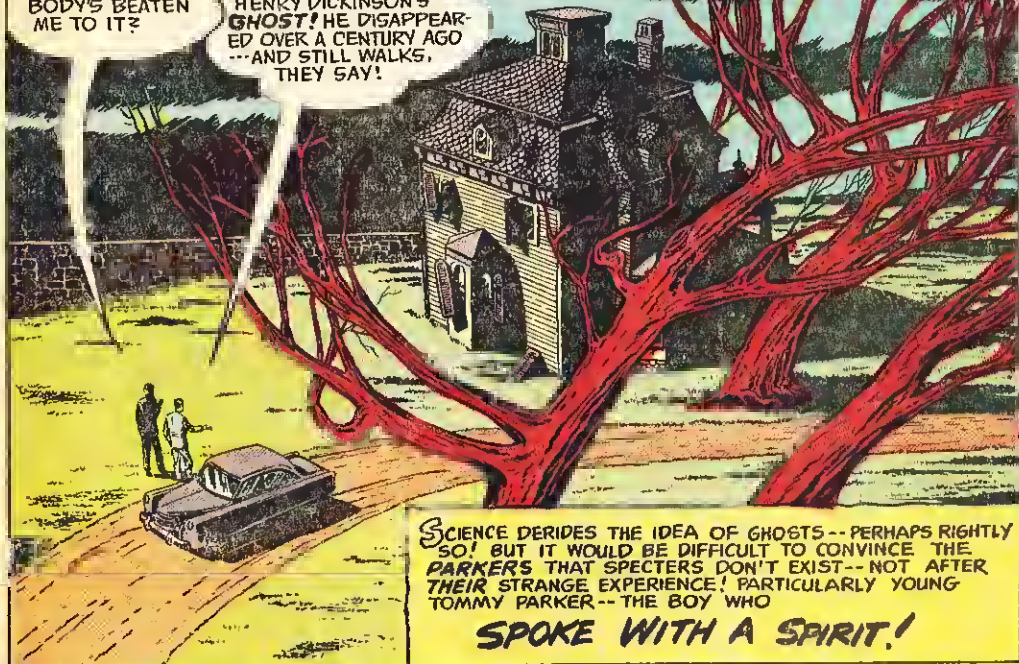
4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting; also the statements in the two paragraphs show the offiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner.

(Signed) RICHARD E. HUGHES, Editor.
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1st day of October, 1953.
Bernard Schwarz, Notary Public, State of New York.
(My commission expires March 30, 1955)

He Spoke WITH A Spirit!

I'LL TAKE IT AND RENOVATE IT, SINCE IT'S SO CHEAP! HOW COME NOBODY'S BEATEN ME TO IT?

FOLKS CLAIM IT'S HAUNTED BY OLD HENRY DICKINSON'S GHOST! HE DISAPPEARED OVER A CENTURY AGO ---AND STILL WALKS, THEY SAY!



SCIENCE DERIDES THE IDEA OF GHOSTS--PERHAPS RIGHTLY SO! BUT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CONVINCE THE PARKERS THAT SPECTERS DON'T EXIST--NOT AFTER THEIR STRANGE EXPERIENCE! PARTICULARLY YOUNG TOMMY PARKER--THE BOY WHO

SPOKE WITH A SPIRIT!

BUT ROBERT PARKER WASN'T SCARED! HE HAD THE OLD HOUSE REPAIRED---

I HOPE THE GHOST APPROVES, HELEN!

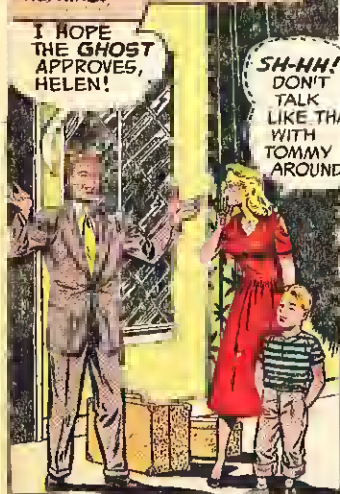
SH-HH! DON'T TALK LIKE THAT WITH TOMMY AROUND!

THAT VERY NIGHT, SOMETHING WOKE TOMMY--

I'M SORRY I WOKE YOU, MY BOY! PLEASE--DON'T BE FRIGHTENED!

WHY SHOULD I BE? BUT WHO ARE YOU?

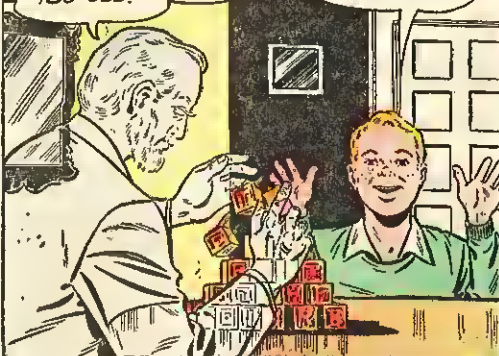
JUST---A LONELY MAN WHO'S WANDERED TOO LONG! WE'LL SEE A LOT OF EACH OTHER IF YOU'LL TELL NO ONE ABOUT ME! YOU CAN CALL ME---UNCLE HENRY!



FAITHFUL TO HIS NEW FRIENDS REQUEST, TOMMY SAID NOTHING TO HIS PARENTS! THEY HAD FUN TOGETHER, THE TWO OF THEM--

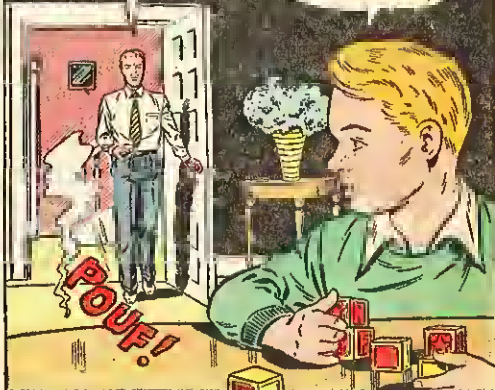
I'M AFRAID I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT THIS! I HAVEN'T DONE IT FOR--YEARS, YOU SEE!

HO-HO-HO! YOU'RE ALL THUMBS, UNCLE HENRY!



SUDDENLY-- WHO WAS HERE JUST NOW, TOMMY? WHO WERE YOU TALKING TO?

WHY... WHY, UNCLE HENRY, OF COURSE!



YOUTHFUL IMAGINATION, THEY CALLED IT! BUT ONE STORMY NIGHT--

UNCLE HENRY! WHAT'S UP?

DANGER! WARN YOUR FATHER THAT THE OLD DAM IS GIVING WAY!



AND SO--

IT--IT'S GONNA BREAK, I TELL YOU--WE'LL BE DROWNED!

BETTER TAKE A LOOK, ROBERT... IF ONLY TO HUMOR THE CHILD!



THE MENACE WAS ALL TOO TRUE--AND THE DAM WAS SAVED IN TIME! NATURALLY, TOMMY WAS QUESTIONED FURTHER--

YES--UNCLE HENRY! AN' HE SAID IF WE WANTED TO THANK HIM, WE SHOULD BREAK IN THE HOLLOW SPOT IN THE ATTIC WALL!

HE WAS RIGHT ABOUT THE DAM, ROBERT! LET'S SEE THIS CRAZY THING THROUGH!



HMMM... THERE IS A HOLLOW SPOT HERE!

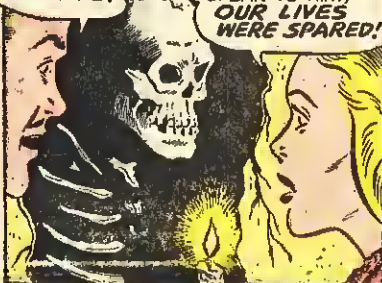
I--I WONDER WHAT'S IN IT!



AND THERE, IN A SPACE BEHIND THE OLD WALL--

MERCIFUL HEAVENS, IT--IT'S A SKELETON! IT MUST HAVE BEEN TRUE, THEN--THE STORY ABOUT OLD HENRY DICKINSON, WHOSE BODY WAS NEVER FOUND! HIS MURDERER PLACED IT HERE!

YES, AND HIS SPIRIT HAS WALKED EVER SINCE! HE WAS A FRIENDLY GHOST, ROBERT--AND BECAUSE A LITTLE BOY COULD SPEAK TO HIM, OUR LIVES WERE SPARED!



THE BONES OF OLD HENRY WERE LAID TO REST IN THE PEACEFUL EARTH WHICH HIS SOUL HAD CRAVED! AND NEVER AGAIN DID A SPIRIT STALK THE HALLS OF THE ANCIENT DICKINSON MANSION!

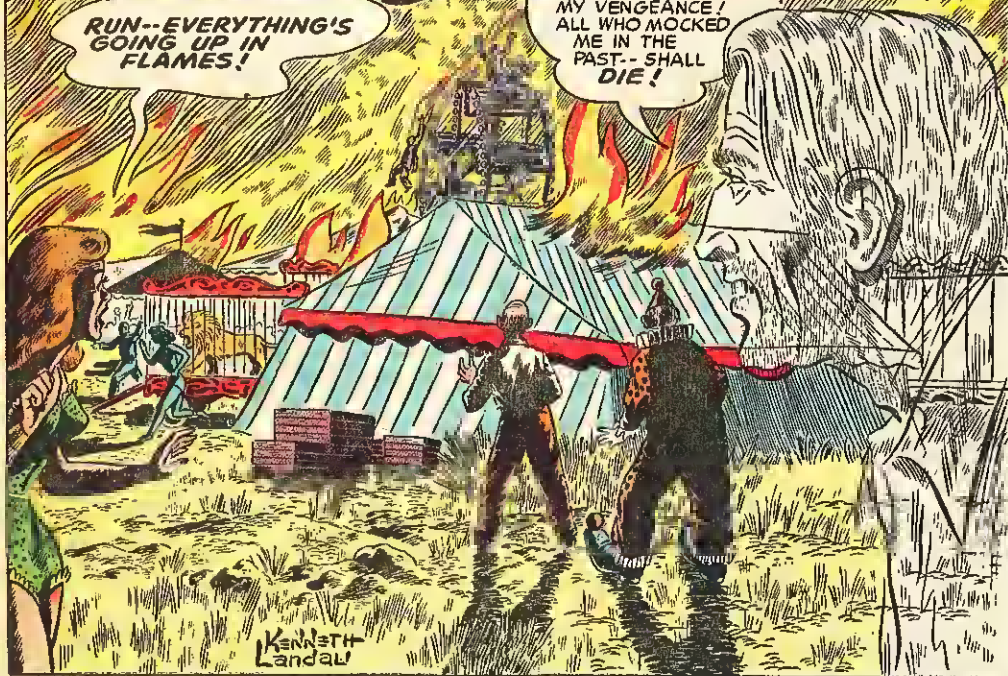
The End

EVERY CIRCUS PERFORMER HAS KNOWN FEAR! DAREDEVIL AERIALISTS, TRAINERS WHO COURAGEOUSLY FACE WILD BEASTS DAILY-- ALL KNOW THAT A SECOND'S INDECISION OR TIMIDITY CAN SPELL DEATH! WAS IT ANY WONDER, THEN, THAT A DEMENTED SPECTER INTENT UPON REVENGE COULD CAUSE ABJECT--

TERROR UNDER the BIG TOP!

RUN--EVERYTHING'S GOING UP IN FLAMES!

THIS IS BUT THE BEGINNING OF MY VENGEANCE! ALL WHO MOCKED ME IN THE PAST-- SHALL DIE!



Kenneth Landau

25 YEARS AGO, THE NAME OF **WALTER BASCOMB** WAS INTERNATIONALLY FAMOUS--

BASCOMB AND TOM KNOX, THE CIRCUS OWNER, WERE PALS--

LATER--A NIGHTCLUB--

ISN'T IT THRILLING? NO WONDER THEY CALL HIM THE **GREAT BASCOMB**!

GREAT SHOW, WALLY! SAY, I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK-- THAT THING YOU ALWAYS WEAR AROUND YOUR NECK, WHAT IS IT?

OH, JUST A LITTLE TRINKET I PICKED UP IN INDIA! I GOTTA HURRY -- GOT A HEAVY DATE!

I KNOW WE ONLY MET A FEW WEEKS BACK, GRACE -- BUT I'M **CRAZY** ABOUT YOU!

PLEASE, WALLY-- LET'S NOT RUSH THINGS! I'M NOT SURE HOW I--



WELL, WELL-- SO **THIS** WAS THE BIG DATE! YOU LUCKY STIFF, HOW'S ABOUT AN INTRODUCTION?



DIDN'T YOU EVER HEAR ABOUT THREE BEING A CROWD?

SURE! BUT WE CIRCUS PEOPLE **THRIVE** ON CROWDS! WHAT SAY WE MAKE THIS A **PARTY?**

IF YOU'RE THINKING OF GIVING ME **COMPETITION**-- YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME!



GENTLEMEN, PLEASE!

NEXT MORNING--

HELLO, GRACE? THIS IS **TOM!** I KNOW I SHOULDN'T BE CUTTING IN ON ANOTHER GUY'S GIRL, BUT--



I-I SORT OF EXPECTED THIS! AND I'D BE LYING IF I DIDN'T SAY I WAS **HOPING** YOU'D CALL!

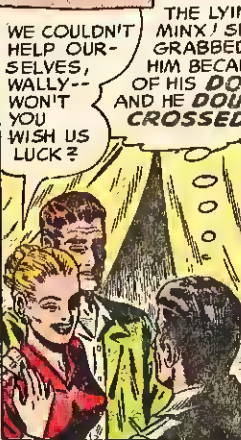
FOR BOTH, IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT! SOON AFTERWARDS--



WE CAN'T KEEP THIS A SECRET ANY MORE, DARLING--I WANT TO **MARRY** YOU!

WE'VE GOT NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF, DEAREST-- WE'LL TELL WALTER THE **TRUTH!**

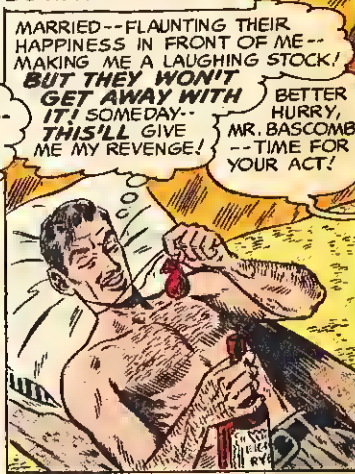
BUT WHEN THE STORY WAS TOLD--



WE COULDN'T HELP OURSELVES, WALLY-- WON'T YOU WISH US LUCK?

THE LYING MINX! SHE GRABBED HIM BECAUSE OF HIS **DOUGH**-- AND HE **DOUBLE-CROSSED** ME!

SOON AFTERWARDS--

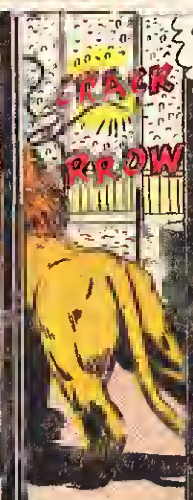


MARRIED--FLAUNTING THEIR HAPPINESS IN FRONT OF ME-- MAKING ME A LAUGHING STOCK! **BUT THEY WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT!** SOMEDAY-- THIS'LL GIVE ME MY REVENGE!

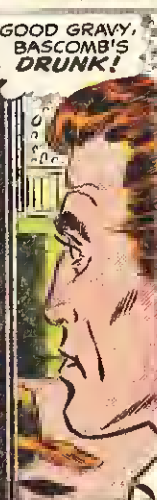
BETTER HURRY, MR. BASCOMB-- TIME FOR YOUR ACT!



HOP TO IT, YOU BRUTE-- **HOP!**



CRACK
POW



GOOD GRAY, BASCOMB'S **DRUNK!**

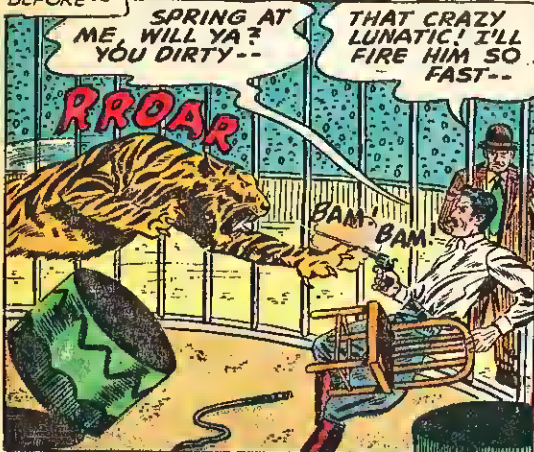
WEEKS LATER--



YOU'VE GOT TO QUIT DRINKING, WALLY! YOUR TIMING'S OFF-- AND YOU'RE MAKING THE ANIMALS NERVOUS!

DON'T LIKE MY ACT, HUH? OKAY, I **QUIT!**

BASCOMB SOON GOT ANOTHER JOB--WITH A SMALLER CIRCUS! BUT ONLY SHORT MONTHS PASSED BEFORE--



IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF A LONG DOWNHILL SLIDE FOR BASCOMB! EMBITTERED BY DRINK AND HATE, THE PASSING YEARS PILED FAILURE ON FAILURE--



FINALLY, THE END OF THE TRAIL--



ONLY IN SMALL, RUNDOWN CARNIVALS DO "GEEKS" EXIST! THEY ARE A SIDE-SHOW ATTRACTION--THE "WILD MEN OF BORNEO"--



TO THINK THAT I--THE GREAT BASCOMB--HAVE COME TO THIS! THEY'LL PAY FOR THIS--ALL OF THEM--WITH THEIR LIVES!

EACH NIGHT, AFTER THE GRISLY PERFORMANCE-- LIQUOR, AND DREAMS!

THEY DON'T KNOW-- BUT I HAVE WAYS OF GAINING REVENGE! THIS LITTLE BIT OF DRIED SKIN FILLED WITH EARTH WHICH I CARRY AROUND MY NECK--IF THEY ONLY KNEW WHAT IT MEANT! HA-HA! I'LL BE AVENGED! THEY DON'T KNOW-- ABOUT THE POWER OF HARANI--



IT HAPPENED MANY YEARS BEFORE,
IN INDIA, ON ONE OF BASCOMB'S
WORLD TOURS--

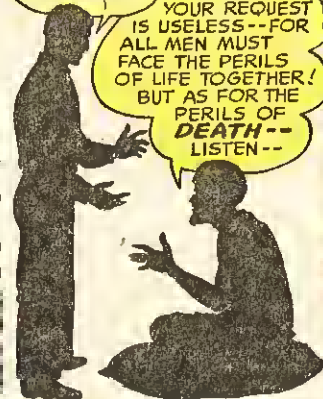
I HAVE HEARD
MUCH OF YOUR POWERS, OLD MAN
-- IT IS SAID YOU ARE A
WIZARD, WITH
KNOWLEDGE OF
FORBIDDEN THINGS!
I HAVE COME TO
ASK YOUR HELP!

SPEAK--
WHAT IS
YOUR WISH?

IN MY WORK I FACE
WILD BEASTS EVERY DAY!
I WANT SOMETHING TO
PROTECT ME--AND I'LL
PAY HIGH!

YOUR REQUEST
IS USELESS--FOR
ALL MEN MUST
FACE THE PERILS
OF LIFE TOGETHER!
BUT AS FOR THE
PERILS OF
DEATH--
LISTEN--

WITHIN THIS BIT OF DRIED
SNAKESKIN ARE SEVERAL
GRAINS OF EARTH-- TAKEN
FROM THE TOMB OF OUR
GREAT ANCIENT PROPHET
AND LEADER **HARANI**!
WITH IT YOU CAN RETURN
FROM THE DEAD AS A
SPIRIT--- IF IT IS
BURIED WITH YOU!



A KING'S RANSOM I PAID-- BUT IT'LL
BE WORTH IT! THE POWER IN THIS
SNAKESKIN WILL-- **AAGH!**
M-MY-- HEART!
HELP!



WHATCHA **YELLIN'** FOR,
YOU OLD PUNK? I OUGHTA--

PLEASE, A
DOCTOR--



BOSS, LOOK
AT HIS FACE!
HE NEEDS HELP!

MINUTES LATER--
IT'S **HOPELESS**--

PLEASE--BURY
ME WEARING
THIS! MY
MOTHER-- GAVE
IT-- TO ME--

BLAST IT--
NOW WE'LL NEED
A NEW GEEK!



WALTER BASCOMB'S FUNERAL WAS A LONELY ONE
--WITNESSED BY ONLY A FEW CIRCUS HANDS--

ASHES TO ASHES,
DUST TO DUST--



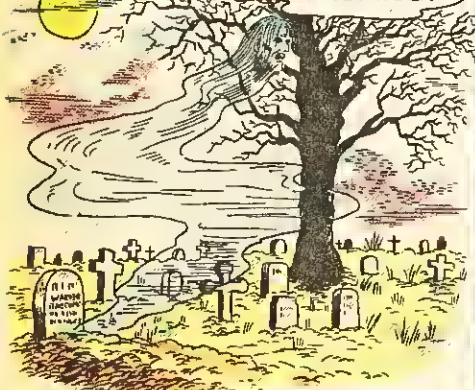
BUT THAT NIGHT--AS THE FULL MOON
RODE HIGH--

IT--IT WORKED!
I'M FREE--FREE! AND
NOW--DEATH TO MY
ENEMIES!

SPEEDING SWIFTLY TO WHERE THE CARNIVAL SLEPT--

B-BASCOMB--
YOU! BUT--
AAGH!

DIE, FOOL--DIE!



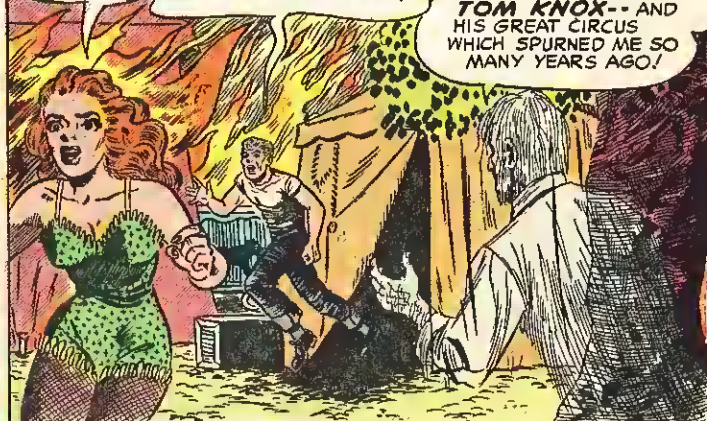
DUNSTON'S DEATH IS BUT
THE **BEGINNING**! THIS
GASOLINE WILL HELP ME
DESTROY THE WHOLE
ACCURSED CARNIVAL--
AND ALL IN IT WHO
MOCKED ME!



MOMENTS LATER--A FIERY HOLOCAUST!

HELP!
THE ANIMALS--
THEY'RE TRAPPED!

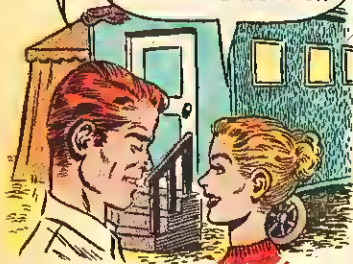
GOOD! NOW
FOR MY REAL
REVENGE--AGAINST
TOM KNOX-- AND
HIS GREAT CIRCUS
WHICH SPURNED ME SO
MANY YEARS AGO!



BUT 25 YEARS HAD WROUGHT
MANY CHANGES! TOM KNOX
AND HIS WIFE WERE DEAD--
AND THE CIRCUS WAS OWNED
BY THEIR DAUGHTER, **SALLY**--

HOW'S
ABOUT
A KISS,
BOSS?

DAD ALWAYS SAID
NEVER TO GET TOO
CHUMMY WITH THE
HIRED HANDS--
BUT IN **YOUR**
CASE, JOE, I'LL
MAKE AN EXCEPTION!



NEARBY, LISTENING --

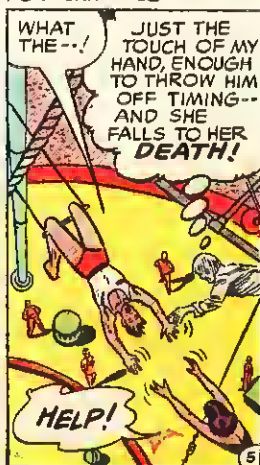
SO THEY
ARE DEAD--MY MORTAL ENEMIES!
BUT THEY WON'T CHEAT ME OF MY
VENGEANCE! **SHE** SHALL PAY
FOR HER PARENTS' MISDEEDS--
AND SO SHALL THE CIRCUS! BUT
IT WOULD BE TOO EASY TO BURN
IT DOWN-- AND TOO QUICK! NO,
I SHALL DRIVE THEM ALL MAD
WITH **FEAR**-- AND HOW WELL I,
AN OLD CIRCUS PERFORMER,
KNOW HOW TO DO **THAT**!



AT THE NEXT NIGHT'S
PERFORMANCE --

WHAT
THE--!

JUST THE
TOUCH OF MY
HAND, ENOUGH
TO THROW HIM
OFF TIMING--
AND SHE
FALLS TO HER
DEATH!





LATER-- I-I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT! IT WAS-- SUCH A SIMPLE CATCH! BUT AT THE LAST MINUTE-- I-I FELT SOMETHING **TOUGH** ME, LIKE THE HAND OF DEATH ITSELF! AND THEN--WHEN SHE WAS FALLING-- I HEARD A **LAUGH!**

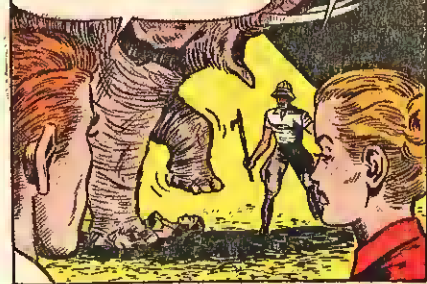


BUT IN THE ENSUING NIGHTS, THERE WERE MANY STRANGE ACCIDENTS!

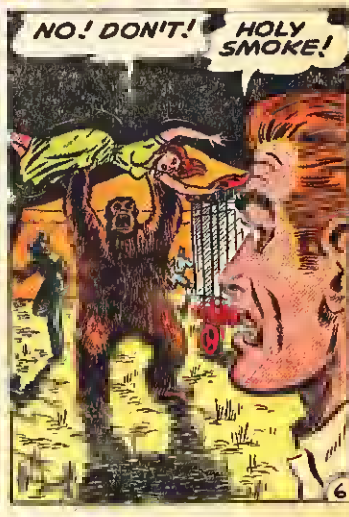
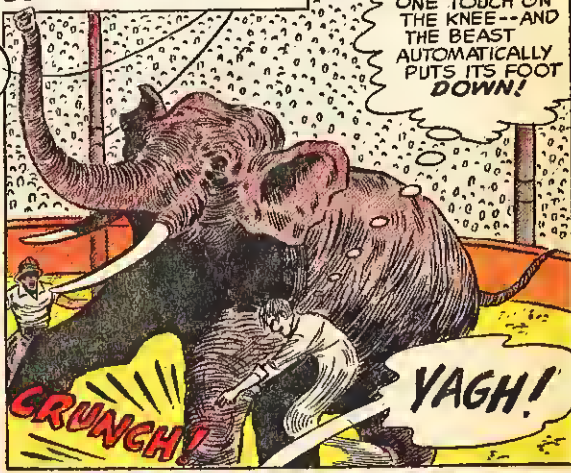


WITHIN A FEW DAYS, THE ICY BREATH OF FEAR WAS SPREADING--

I CAN'T HELP IT, JOE-- EVERY TIME I SEE A DANGEROUS ACT, I'M **SCARED!** LIKE THAT ELEPHANT THERE-- PUTTING ITS FOOT ON THAT GIRL'S HEAD--



BUT THE NEXT MOMENT--





YOU MAY BE WORTH 100 G'S, BOZO-- BUT IT'S **YOU OR ME!**

ARR-RR.

BAM! BAM!

AFTERWARDS--

HALF THE PEOPLE WANT TO **QUIT**, JOE-- WHAT'LL I **DO?**

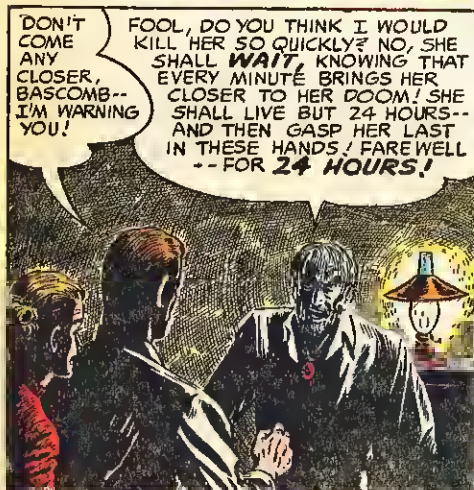
I DON'T KNOW-- BUT NOW, I'M CONVINCED THAT THERE'S A **SUPER-NATURAL** AGENCY AT WORK! SOMEBODY **OPENED** THE GORILLA'S CAGE TONIGHT-- BECAUSE I EXAMINED THE **LOCK!**

CORRECT, MORTAL-- I DID!

IN A SUDDEN MATERIALIZATION--

JOE! IT'S-- A-- GHOST!

YES, THE **GHOST OF WALTER BASCOMB!** KNOW THAT I HAVE SWORN TO **DESTROY** YOU!



DON'T COME ANY CLOSER, **BASCOMB--** I'M WARNING YOU!

FOOL, DO YOU THINK I WOULD KILL HER SO QUICKLY? NO, SHE SHALL **WAIT**, KNOWING THAT EVERY MINUTE BRINGS HER CLOSER TO HER DOOM! SHE SHALL LIVE BUT 24 HOURS-- AND THEN GASP HER LAST IN THESE HANDS! FAREWELL -- FOR **24 HOURS!**

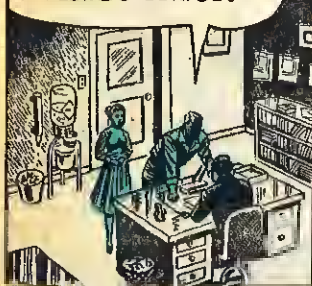
WHEN THE SPECTER VANISHED--

WE-- WE'RE **HELPLESS!** THAT THING'S --**INVINCIBLE!**

MAYBE **NOT!** I NOTICED SOMETHING, AND THOUGH IT'S ONLY A HUNCH -- I MAY BE RIGHT, BECAUSE THE GHOST NEEDED SOME METHOD OF RETURNING FROM THE GRAVE! C'MON-- WE'VE GOT TO FIND THE GRAVE OF **BASCOMB** BEFORE THE **24 HOURS** ARE UP!

FIRST A **HECTIC DASH** TO THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE--

OKAY, SO YOU THINK OUR STORY'S CRAZY! BUT THIS GIRL'S **LIFE** DEPENDS ON YOUR SENDING A TRACER TO EVERY BUREAU OF **DEATH RECORDS** IN THE COUNTRY! WE'VE GOT TO FIND **BASCOMB'S CORPSE!**



THROUGH A DAY-LONG VIGIL, AS TENSION MOUNTED, CALLS CAME IN FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY-- UNTIL--

WALTER **BASCOMB** -- DEAD SIX YEARS? NO, NO-- THAT'S NOT **HIM!**

THREE WALTER BASCOMB'S IN THAT CEMETERY? BUT NONE OF THEM FIT THE **BILL, EH?**

WHAT'S THAT? A **WALTER BASCOMB, CIRCUS PER-FORMER?** BURIED ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO? **THAT'S IT! WE'LL BE RIGHT OVER!**

LOOK HERE, SON-- WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO FIND?

JUST AS I THOUGHT -- IT'S **HERE!** OKAY, SALLY, LET'S HURRY BACK-- WE'RE **READY FOR HIM!**



GRIMLY THEY WAITED! AT THE
STROKE OF THE 24 TH HOUR--



**JOE--
IT'S
HIM!**

I THOUGHT
PERHAPS YOU
WOULD BE FOOLISH
ENOUGH TO ATTEMPT
TO FLEE! IT WOULD
HAVE BEEN USELESS!
AND NOW--

SUDDENLY--

**AGH!
WHERE
DID YOU
GET THAT?**



FROM YOUR
BODY, CREEP
-- AND IT
SPELLS YOUR
DOOM!

**NO! DON'T
TOUCH IT
WITH THE
FIRE! DON'T!**

**OKAY,
BASCOMB--
CATCH!**



**HA! FOOL, YOU SHOULD
HAVE DESTROYED ME
WHILE YOU COULD--
FOR NOW YOU BOTH
DIE! DID YOU EXPECT
MERCY-- FROM
ME?**

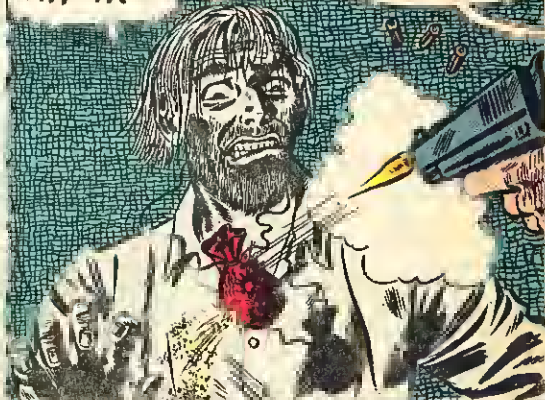
**FRANKLY--
NO!**



AS THE DEMON LUNGED--

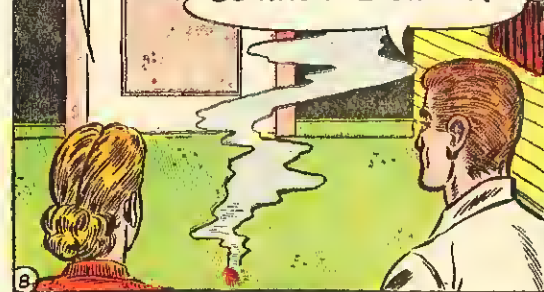
**MERE BULLETS CANNOT--
AAGH!**

**I'VE GOT NEWS
FOR YOU-- YOU'RE
WRONG!**



**JOE!
WHAT
HAPPENED? HE'S
--DISAPPEARED!**

YEAH, LEAVING ONLY THAT
LITTLE BAG BEHIND! YOU
SEE, HONEY, I NOTICED
THAT THE GHOST WAS
WEARING THAT STRANGE
THING AROUND ITS NECK,
AND I HAD A HUNCH IT CONTAINED
THE SPIRIT'S STRENGTH! IT WAS
SUBJECT TO DESTRUCTION, ALL
RIGHT--AND WITH IT DESTROYED--
SO WAS THE GHOST!



**JOE, DARLING--
HOW'S ABOUT A KISS
FOR THE BOSS?**

**AN ORDER'S
AN ORDER--
SWEETHEART!**



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Protect your luggage, blankets, tools and all trunk accessories from the filth picked up on the SPARE TIRE. Heavy Six Gauge VINYL PLASTIC covers for replacement of old, worn, and heavy elastic bindings. Simple to install and as simple to remove. Universal Size Cover.



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THIS REMARKABLE pup walks and barks just like "that doggie in the window" — but only when you want him to. That's a joy for Janies and his parents! Squeezes the leash and wags the youngster's delight. About 12" long with furry feel of a terrier. Comes with carrying case that converts to a snappy doghouse. Complete.

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SPORT WATCH

Lifetime Guaranteed! (Exclusive of parts). Fine jeweled CIMIER SPORT WATCH. Precision and Snap Watch combination. Regulated movement in Chrome Case with Stainless Steel band. Leather Strapped. Anti-magnetic. Sweep second hand. 2 extra dials clock up to 60 minutes and up to six hours. Non-return to zero.



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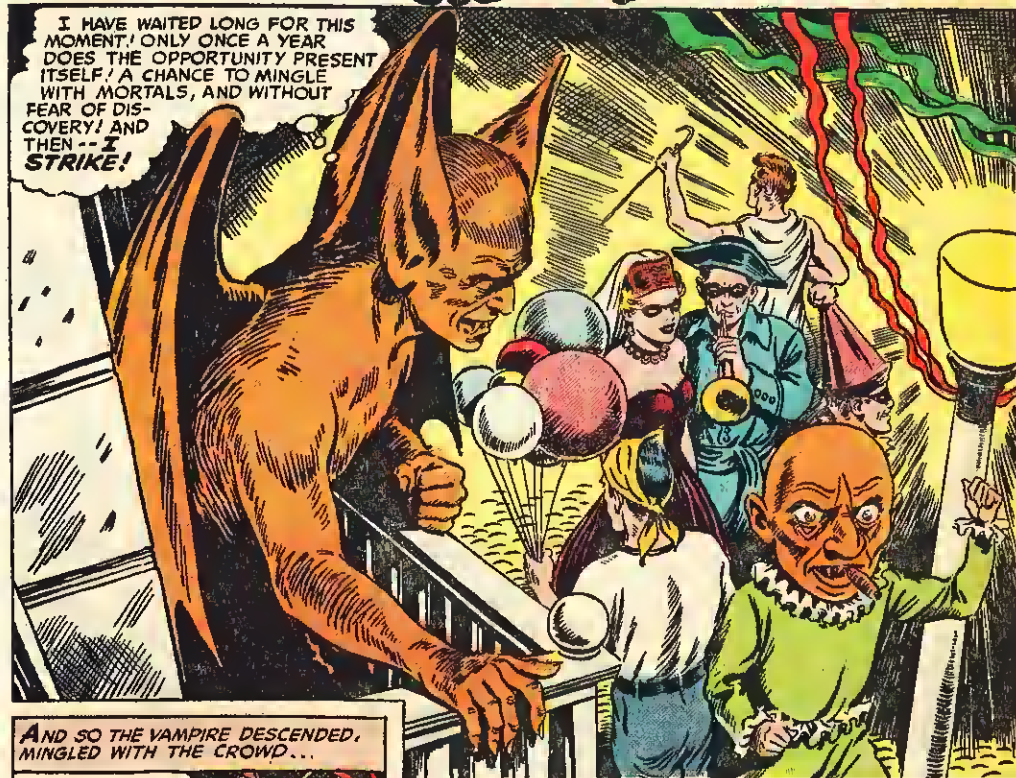
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FROM WHERE HE STOOD HE COULD HEAR THEIR LAUGHTER AND THE SOUND OF MUSIC... BUT SOON ALL OF THAT WOULD BE CHANGED! ONCE HE WAS AMONGST THEM, THE MUSIC WOULD BECOME A WALL OF ANGUISH, AND IN PLACE OF LAUGHTER THERE WOULD SOON BE...

HORROR *at the* MARDI GRAS



AND SO THE VAMPIRE DESCENDED, MINGLED WITH THE CROWD...

FOR ONCE, MY NATURAL FORM BECOMES A PERFECT DISGUISE! THEY THINK I AM ONE OF THEM--A MERRY-MAKER AT THE MARDI GRAS!



NOW THERE IS A MORTAL TO TEMPT MY HUNGER! YOUNG, PRETTY--AND BY HER LOOKS, NONE TOO WISE! SHE SHOULD OFFER LITTLE TROUBLE!



WELL, IF IT AIN'T DRACULA HIMSELF!

HEY! YOU'RE RUININ' MY SHOT!



THAT'S A DAME FOR YA. FIRST SHE BEGS THAT I SNAP HER PICTURE -- THEN SHE TAKES A POWDER!

AN' LOOK AT THE CREEP SHE PICKED-- WHEN SHE COULDA HAD A NICE DEVIL LIKE ME!



KNOW SOMETHIN' 'Z THE SECOND I LAID EYES ON YOU, I SAID TO MYSELF... "MAISIE, THERE'S A GUY WITH REAL CLASS!" WHY, I'D BET THERE AIN'T ANOTHER COSTUME LIKE YOURS IN ALL NEW ORLEANS!

IN A SENSE, MAISIE, YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT!



AN' I BET I'M RIGHT ABOUT YOUR EYES, TOO! THEY'RE BABY BLUE! C'MON, LET'S HAVE A PEEK!

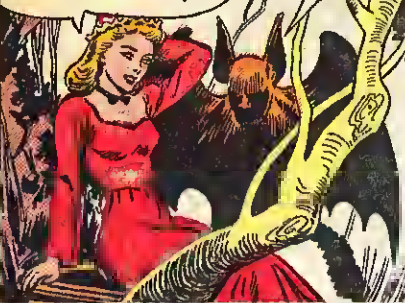
NO, NOT HERE! THERE'S A LITTLE GARDEN OFF THIS MAIN STREET-- WE CAN BE ALONE THERE!



A SHORT WHILE LATER IN THE SECLUDED GARDEN...

MY, BUT YOU'RE THE ROMANTIC ONE! GUESS I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET YOU TAKE ME HERE AT THAT! SEEN' THAT WE JUST MET AN' ALL!

YOU'RE NOT AFRAID... ARE YOU?



WOTTA CHANCE! WHY, I-- OH, N-NO!



LOOK INTO MY EYES NOW, YOU FOOL! ARE THEY AS CHARMING AS YOU THOUGHT?



BUT THE SOUND OF RUNNING FOOTSTEPS INTERRUPTED THE VAMPIRE'S MOMENT OF GRISLY TRIUMPH...

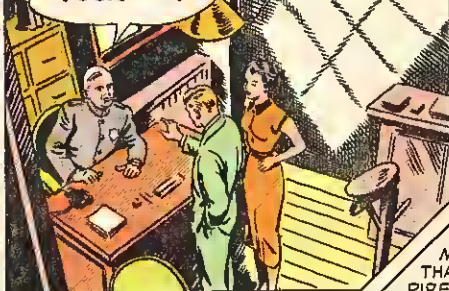
THEY MUST HAVE HEARD HER SCREAM-- I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE HER! I CAN'T RUN THE RISK OF FACING THEM IN NUMBERS!



THE FOLLOWING MORNING,
IN POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

FOR THE UMPTENTH TIME, CHIEF, I
TELL YOU THAT GAL IS **LOONEY!**
SHE'S TOLD THE PRESS THAT SHE WAS
ATTACKED BY A GENUINE, ONE HUNDRED
PERCENT **VAMPIRE!** NOW, HDW
SILLY CAN A DAME **GET?**

NOT HALF AS SILLY AS
WE'LL LOOK, IF WE DON'T
GET THIS MESS CLEANED
UP! AND AS MY ACE
DETECTIVE, THAT'S
YOUR JOB!



MAYBE THE GIRL **IS**
OVERDOING IT A BIT,
MIKE, BUT WE CAN'T
OVERLOOK HER
STORY ENTIRELY!

SO **THAT'S** THE WAY IT
GOES, EH, GAIL? NOW A
ROOKIE POLICEMAN IS
GOING TO GIVE ME A FEW
TIPS ON POLICE PROCEDURE!



I SNAPPED A
PICTURE OF THAT
MAISIE GAL, JUST WHEN
THAT FELLA IN THE VAM-
PIRE COSTUME PICKED HER
UP! I RAN THE PRINTS OFF
THIS MORNING, BUT **WAIT**
TILL YOU SEE IT!

GREAT GUNS! SHE
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S TALKING
TO SOMEONE, BUT THERE'S
NO ONE THERE!

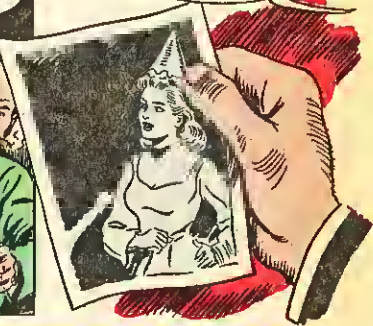
BUT HE **WAS**
THERE! I SAW
HIM PLAIN AS
DAY!

SUDDENLY...

HEY, MIKE! I
GOT A LEAD ON LAST NIGHT'S
DOINGS, AN' IT'S A **DILLY!**



WELL, C'MON...
GIVE!



MIKE, WE **ARE** DEALING WITH SOMETHING
DIFFERENT! I'M NO EXPERT ON THE SUPER-
NATURAL, BUT I REMEMBER READING
SOMEWHERE THAT VAMPIRES CAN'T
REFLECT LIGHT! IF THAT'S TRUE, IT
WOULD EXPLAIN WHY HE DIDN'T COME
OUT IN THIS PICTURE!

YOU'RE
RIGHT,
GAIL! THIS
CREEP IS THE
REAL THING!



LOOK, HONEY, I'LL HAVE TO BUZZ
OFF TO THE LIBRARY AND CATCH UP
ON MY VAMPIRE READING, BUT I
MAY BE NEEDING
YOU LATER ON!
IF I DO, CAN
I COUNT ON
YOU?

YOU
KNOW
YOU CAN,
MIKE! JUST
SAY THE
WORD!



THAT NIGHT--

THIS BLONDE WIG SHOULD DO IT, MIKE--AND ALONG WITH THE WITCH'S COSTUME, I SHOULD PASS FOR THE MAISIE GIRL IN A CROWD!

IT'S DARN CLOSE ALL RIGHT--AND THAT'S WHAT MAKES ME **NERVOUS!**

I'D NEVER LET YOU GO THROUGH WITH THIS, IF IT WASN'T THAT IT **MIGHT WORK!** ACCORDING TO THE RESEARCH I DID, VAMPIRES GENERALLY FOLLOW THROUGH ON A VICTIM THEY'VE MISSED UP ON! SO WHAT WITH MAISIE ESCAPING, THERE'S THE SLIM CHANCE HE MAY BE AFTER HER AGAIN TONIGHT!

ONLY THIS TIME IT WILL BE **ME--** BACKED UP BY YOU AND A SQUAD OF OUR BEST OPERATIVES!

AND SO, ACCORDING TO PLAN, GAIL WALKED THE MAIN THOROUGHFARE UNESCORTED...

THAT'S BURNS OVER TO THE SIDE, AND I PASSED KELLER AND MARTIN A SHORT WAY BACK! AT LEAST THEY'RE GIVING ME GOOD COVERAGE!

ONE HOUR LATER, ALONG A NARROW STREET OFF THE MAIN STEM...

THIS PLACE LOOKS A LITTLE TOO QUIET FOR COMFORT! GUESS I'LL HEAD BACK FOR THE BRIGHT LIGHTS!

SUDDENLY...

WHA--?
N-NO
HELP!

WITH POUNDING HEART, GAIL FLED BEFORE HER PURSUER...

GOT TO GET AWAY! CAN'T --- HOLD HIM OFF ALONE!

I'LL HIDE IN HERE...

BUT AS THE FOOTSTEPS ECHO OFF IN THE DISTANCE...

SO... WE MEET AGAIN!

GREAT HEAVENS!



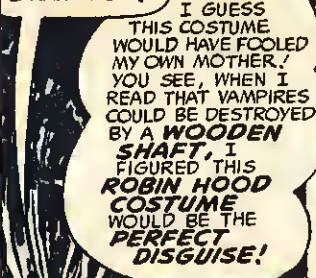
THEN, AT THE CRUCIAL MOMENT...



AS A SECOND ARROW KNIFES THE AIR...



AND TO THINK IT WAS **YOU** I RAN FROM!



WHAT **HAPPENED**, OFFICER? SOMEBODY GET HURT IN THERE?



GUESS IT'S JUST AS WELL THEY DON'T KNOW THE **TRUTH!** BUT, MIKE, I NEVER KNEW YOU WERE A MARKSMAN WITH THE BOW AND ARROW!

WHICH IS WHY WE'RE GOING TO BE SEEING A **LOT** OF EACH OTHER FROM NOW ON! AFTER ALL, A GAL HAS TO LEARN A FEW THINGS ABOUT HER **FUTURE HUSBAND!**



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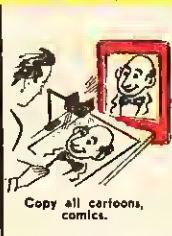
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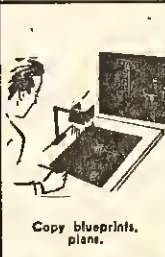
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of fruit, lamps,
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Includes fuel supply.

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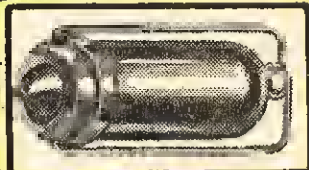
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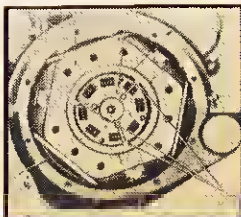
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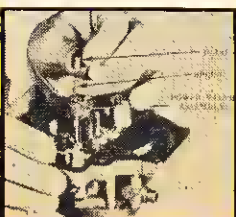
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Cut-away diagrams make every operation easy. Above — Ford clutch.



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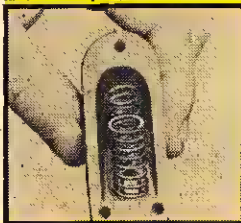


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